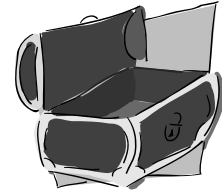


# Glossary



## **air temperature**

A measure of the degree of hotness or coldness of the air.

## **cloud**

A visible form of condensed water in the atmosphere. This may include particles of water and ice. In addition, clouds may include aerosols or solid particles such as those present in fumes, smoke or dust.

## **cloud cover**

Refers to the amount (in tenths) of the sky which is covered by clouds.

## **current temperature**

The temperature at the time the thermometer is read.

## **high clouds**

These clouds, found above 6,000 m, are made up of mostly ice crystals.

## **liquid precipitation**

Includes rainfall and drizzle.

## **local solar noon**

Solar noon is used in this Teachers' Guide as the time when the sun appears to have reached its highest point in the sky during the day. It occurs halfway between sunrise and sunset.

## **low clouds**

Low clouds, found below 2,000 m, mostly contain water but can also be made up of snow and ice particles.

## **maximum temperature**

The highest temperature that has occurred since the preceding temperature reading and resetting of the thermometer.

## **meniscus**

The curved surface of a liquid confined in a narrow tube due to the adhesion of the liquid to the interior surface of the tube.

## **middle clouds**

These clouds are made up of mostly water. The base of these clouds can range in height from 2,000 m to 6,000 m.

## **minimum temperature**

The lowest temperature that has occurred since the preceding temperature reading and resetting of the thermometer.

## **precipitation**

Refers to any or all forms of liquid or solid water particles that fall from the atmosphere and reach the Earth's surface.

## **solid precipitation**

Includes snow, ice pellets, hail, ice crystals, and, for the purpose of precipitation measurements, freezing rain.

## **water equivalent**

The liquid content of a sample of solid precipitation. This is determined by melting the sample and measuring the resulting amount of water.